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17 April 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: HFA Staff Briefing on the Middle East

1. On 17 April 1984, House Foreign Affairs Committee staffers Thomas Smeeton and Marian Chambers along with George Stephanopoulos of Rep. Edward Feighan's (D., OH) staff and Bob Dobeck of Rep. Larry Smith's (D., FL) staff were briefed on Middle East drug trafficking patterns. The briefers were [redacted] of DDI/OGI/ISID. Briefing material was held to the SECRET level. [redacted]

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2. Ms. Chambers explained that the House Foreign Affairs Narcotics Task Force was planning to hold public hearings sometime between May and July 1984 on Middle Eastern involvement in the drug trade. The briefing consisted of a general overview of the flow of drugs from Pakistan-Afghanistan through the Middle East to Europe and the US. The entire cycle from the growing of crops to the manufacture and distribution of narcotics was discussed. The Hill staffers were particularly interested in the role played by Syria and were told that there is insufficient evidence to depict Syria as an increasingly major player in the drug ring, although Syrians have long participated as traffickers. The briefers agreed to evaluate the content of press articles (attached) dealing with the Middle East and drugs and will provide comments in the near future. The briefers were unable to suggest possible witnesses to testify at the planned public hearings. [redacted]

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Attachment: As Stated

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OLL/LD: [redacted] (20 Apr 84)

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Western Front

DEDICATED TO A RENAISSANCE OF WESTERN CULTURE

Post Office Box 27854
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Vol. 17 - No. 216

LEBANON

This is a story that should have been disclosed to the entire world years ago and although we are positive that the government of the United States knows of all the insidious, treacherous traitors involved in this exposure, they do nothing about it.

Our informant, a journalist who has been a professional correspondent for almost ten years reveals that he has been informed reliably by Western journalists who have covered the civil war in Lebanon that it is "suicide" to write about the 'true story of Lebanon'. Inasmuch as the U.S. media will not touch it and knowing of our reputation of bringing our readers the 'facts' regardless of the consequences -- we are proud to participate in disclosing this TRUTH to readers throughout the world.

This is a true story about hashish and what it is doing to Lebanon, where the drug is made. Lebanon is one of the world's hashish capitals, if not the largest. The Lebanese civil war is fed, nourished and heightened by payments from the hashish trade. United States Marines are being killed by bullets bought with Lebanese hash.

On Sunday, October 23, 1983 a driver crashed a truck he was driving loaded with high explosives into the Marine headquarters in Beirut. Another driver with a similar truck with explosives crashed the French unit, attacked in the same way at the same time. The world knows of it as the Lebanon Massacre with a total loss of lives 305 to 310 at this writing. But what the world doesn't know is that both drivers were loaded with hashish yet the media just refers to them as suicide drivers. Military reports the same.

There has never been an exposé that detailed the nature of the Lebanese hashish economy. Nor has this correspondent ever known of a story that traced the connections between the hashish trade and political leaders in Lebanon -- and in Israel. The journalist mentioned above was warned that he would be killed if ever he returned to Lebanon. That is why almost everyone quoted in this story must remain anonymous. The sources are Israel police and drug dealers, Western intelligence officers, Lebanese citizens, and journalists who have covered Beirut and the Bekaa, the valley where almost all the Middle East's hashish is grown. Some of them deal with Lebanese officials who are deeply involved in the trade.

The hash trade is organized so that everyone can get a cut: the Syrians who control the marijuana fields, the Palestine Liberation Army and the Syrian-controlled Palestinian army, the A-Saika, which provide convoys, and the various factional militias -- Christian, Druze, Moslem, rightist, leftist, Falangist, Communist -- are paid off in money or hash when a convoy passes through their territory.

Convoys and individual truckloads go out of the Bekaa (the name means "valley") to what are known as "illegal ports." Without a central authority to collect taxes or import

Over



Walter White, Jr. - Executive Director-Editor

duties, the profits to be earned from controlling a port -- whether Beirut itself or a mere jetty -- are staggering. Published accounts in the relatively free Beirut press indicate that a port doing business in contraband can earn about a BILLION dollars a year in "custom duties." It is the aim of every militia to control a port. Profits are staggering!!!

The Syrians themselves, for example, control Tripoli in the north, where the Palestine Liberation Organization has been ensconced since last fall. Persistent intelligence reports link Syrian president Hafez Assad's brother, Rifat, with major drug smuggling operations, including the smuggling of opium out of Turkey. But the Syrians appear to lack the contacts for major export operations.

Most of the hash exported from Tripoli, therefore, is taken by small fishing boats to North Africa. The boats are owned by a Christian family -- the Franjiehs. The Franjiehs control one of the Christian militias, which are officially the Syrians' enemies in Lebanon. It has been turned into a political as well as a military power. Franjiehs have been presidents of Lebanon. Their long-time rivals are the Gemayels, who first usurped the Franjeh's position as the most powerful Christian family in the mid-'70s. The Gemayels, including Lebanon's current president, Amin, are up to their necks in the hashish trade.

In the 70s, when they were looking in Lebanon for allies against the Palestinians, the Israelis began to provide support for the Gemayel forces. Bashir, younger brother of Amin, began meeting with Israeli officials in 1977, and six months before Israel invaded Lebanon last year, Israeli's then-defense minister, Ariel Sharon, visited Gemayel in Beirut. After the Israeli invasion, Bashir was made president of Lebanon. Barely a month later, he was assassinated; Amin took over. While the Beirut harbor was one of the few places in the country where Lebanon's legal government had control, Bashir's interest went well beyond the law, according to Lebanese and Israeli sources. "He used his militia to run the port like a personal fiefdom. Hash went out, and that's where he was making a lot of money," an Israeli source said. The source, who visited Beirut undercover in the mid '70s (when Israel was still officially at war with the Lebanese government) said that while Bashir was exporting hashish, Amin (now president of Lebanon) was importing stolen cars, whiskey, electronic goods such as stereos, and other products stolen or smuggled from Europe.

According to some reports, the PLO's hashish operations were not geared to filling the PLO's treasury but instead, as in the Syrian-controlled areas farther north, were for the personal gain of PLO officials. To get an idea of how much money is involved, you can turn to An Nakar, a prestigious Beirut newspaper that regularly publishes "stock" reports on the late-summer hashish harvest. Typically, an acre of marijuana plants will produce about four tons of hashish. By the time the hash reaches Europe and is broken down into small units for personal use, it is worth \$10. a gram -- or \$40 million for an acre's worth.

Estimates of the extent of the marijuana fields in the Syrian-controlled portion of the Bekaa, the area between Syria and the coastal mountains, vary from 2,500 to 25,000 acres. Most of that land is owned by Lebanon's Moslem community, in particular, by the large Shia clans who live near Beirut and in the Bekaa. Peasants lease the land and take the somewhat minimal risk of tending the crop and producing the hashish. Their greatest danger is not from law-enforcement agencies, which are paid off, but from raiders from other families.

It is impossible to estimate how much money flows from the hash trade to Lebanon's various warring factions. But it is certain that the country's entire political establishment has profited enormously from hashish. As a senior Israeli police officer said, "Lebanon is a signatory to all those international agreements prohibiting the distribution of hashish. But that signature is about as solid as the smoke that comes from a hash pipe."

Hashish is the only commodity in Israel with a price that has not risen in more than a year. With the nation's annual inflation rate topping 150 percent, that's no small feat. Police officers, hashish dealers and intelligence agents interviewed for this story agree that the amount of hashish in Israel has increased tremendously since Israel invaded Lebanon.

Most of the hashish is smuggled across Israel's border with Lebanon. Whether it is correct is anybody's guess, but 15 tons -- with a bulk value of about \$7.5 million -- amounts to 3.75 grams of hash for each of Israeli's four million residents. While hashish is being used by ever-wider segments of the Israeli population, its distribution is controlled by criminal forces as nasty as any in the world. And there are signs that the criminals are receiving help from Israeli soldiers in Lebanon -- and from the Israeli government itself.

The usual method of transferring hash from one country to another is to have a Lebanese dealer toss the contraband over the border fence. But the Israeli military occupation of parts of Lebanon has created vast opportunities for enterprising soldiers. Hash has been found in tank and cannon barrels, for example, and inside fuel tankers returning from army bases in southern Lebanon. It has also been found inside ammo boxes, empty artillery shells and standard issue knapsacks. And while the soldiers who are caught go to jail, the Lebanese official who apparently controls the border traffic operates with official Israeli sanction. A cousin of southern Lebanon militia commander Sa'ad Haddad made headlines recently when he was arrested along with several Israelis. They had been caught making a midnight hashish transfer at the border. Haddad is the renegade Lebanese army colonel who decided in the mid-'70s that it was better to make a deal with "the Zionist devil," Israel, than let areas he controlled be inundated by Palestinian guerillas.

Haddad then controlled an area containing 150,000 residents, most of them Moslems, but the American press, in a common sort of oversimplification, described him as the head of a Christian militia. In fact, Haddad's militia was a ragtag group of Lebanese Christians and Moslems with a few European and American crazies who had signed up to fight "A-rabs and Commies." Haddad acted as proxy for the Israelis in southern Lebanon during the '70s, allowing them to move troops around in his fiefdom, which bordered on PLO-held areas.

Haddad was de facto ruler of the border area. Little went on there without his knowledge, and Israeli police sources say they are anxious to question Haddad about hashish routes through his territory. But Haddad is "the property of the Israel Defense Forces" -- and the IDF has been under orders from Prime Minister Menachem Begin who said: "We must support the Lebanese colonel. Do not interrogate him." Meanwhile, Haddad's cousin and his associates are on trial in Nazareth District Court.

From August to October, hashish floods the streets of Baalbek, the main town in the Syrian-held Bekaa. Fighting stops in the Bekaa during the marijuana harvest. Sometimes, however, a stray artillery shell will set a field on fire. When that happens, newspaper accounts maintain, the warring parties will put down their guns and join in stopping the blaze. Saving the hashish, to increase the drug's use by more of the world's younger generation, is more important than fighting the war.

Eyewitnesses who have visited Baalbek during the past several years say that in fall, after the harvest is in, hash may be bought there by the Kilogram, ton, truckload or convoy. Westerners, including U.S. military personnel, can buy small amounts in the street, but they run the risk of ending up in Syrian custody. (Hashish possession is illegal, after all.) And Syrian prisons make Turkish prisons look like country clubs, according to several Westerners who've been in them.

Larger transactions, and safer ones, require intermediaries, extensive security precautions, and "protection" payoffs to the numerous independent Lebanese militia.

The drug itself is made in one of three ways, all of which are relatively primitive. A kilo of hash costs the producer \$3 to \$4, including the pickers' wages. Its price in Israel runs from \$800 (lower-quality, bought in bulk) to as much as \$5,000. (The profits are staggering). The best Lebanese hash is called "cherry," or "duddevan" by the Jews. It's bright red and is made by hanging non-flowering female marijuana plants over trays in shaded areas and letting the resin drip into the trays. It is considered the ultimate high.

The next best hashish is made by letting the juices from a sort of marijuana compost drip through sieves into burlap-covered trays. This hash -- which Americans call "Lebanese gold" -- is allowed to dry until it's almost powdery. "Cherry" hash, on the other hand, is almost like opium, tarlike and resinous.

Lebanese gold -- "zahay" in the Jew's language -- costs \$3 a gram or less in Israel.

The least potent type of Lebanese hash is made by putting a lot of chopped marijuana into very large pots over wood-burning fires. It's like making a marijuana sauce -- water is added, and the mixture is boiled until it becomes thick. It is then put through a sieve to remove sticks, seeds and dirt. Users sometimes call this type of hashish "camel dung", but is usually just called hashish -- or "nafas" by both Arabs and Jews. "Nafas" is stronger than marijuana, but it is much weaker, users say, than either duvdevan or zahay. It costs about \$2 a gram in Israel and this is the sort of hash usually exported to America, according to intelligence sources familiar with the trade routes.

An estimated 90 percent of the drugs smuggled from Lebanon to Israel come overland. Tight "Israeli Defense Force" naval patrols prevent foreign vessels from approaching Israel's coastline between Rosh Hanikra and Gaza.

"Nothing takes place inside Lebanon without the local militia knowing about it," said one important reliable source who demanded that he not be identified. He had visited Lebanon in the course of his work before the Israeli invasion. "It is a country where what is legal and illegal is an after-thought in the needs of personal gain and ideological warfare," he said.

Another source, who was not talking only about the hashish trade, added that it was futile to expect Lebanese authorities to eliminate or even limit the hashish trade. Lebanon's commerce, like its politics, is dominated by a few families, he explained. "Each of those 'respectable' families, with their long traditions and devoted religious beliefs, is similar to the American Mafia," he said. "Imagine ten or 20 Mafia families, operating against one another, splitting the territory on the basis of force and negotiation".

A Western Intelligence source was even blunter. "Surely the Israeli police are not so naive as to believe they are able to make any real progress with the Lebanese when it comes to hashish," he commented. "After all, hashish is as vital to their economy as oranges are to the Israelis." "Besides, top officials of both Israel and Lebanon are reaping millions."

Nevertheless, in the recent peace negotiations with Lebanon, the Israeli police managed to include a secret appendix calling for the two countries to cooperate in law enforcement. That cooperation will have to extend beyond hashish. As one senior official told us, "Heroin is now being produced in Lebanon -- and it is of better quality than the Turkish opiates formerly smuggled through the country."

A year after Israeli troops entered Lebanon in force, Israeli police sources say they are having little success in combating a "hashish invasion" going the other way. Tons may be confiscated, but the market is unaffected.

With international cooperation lacking, drugs are going in and out of these countries without inspection and a high-ranking official stated: "Lebanese hash is going through Israel to Europe and the United States. Several Tel Aviv dealers admit that hash is being smuggled out of Ben-Gurion airport, the Tel Aviv Marina and the air and seaports of Eilat.

Eilat, at the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba, is a favorite vacation spot for Europeans. The temperature never dips below 75 degrees, and it almost never rains. Other police sources agree that Eilat is a major smuggling route out of Israel. The tourists find cheap hash there and they can easily get it past customs men harassed by midnight flights of drunken Swedes. One source said smuggling out of Israel is much easier than smuggling into the country.

The past 15 years have gone a long way toward undermining Israel's dreams and the dreams of every Arabic country within her (Israel's) reach. Like a plague, the State called Israel has afflicted every people of the Middle East and although our liberal, corrupt Congress of the United States has granted this counterfeit country Billions of American dollars (10 BILLION furnished by American taxpayers since 1964) they, Israel, have stooped as low as Lebanon in participating in the illegal growth and distribution of such deadly drugs. Total U.S. aid to Israel now stands at 29 BILLION dollars -- while America retches.

In some way, the Lebanese hash trade -- growing and spreading like a corrupting disease -- is a symbol for what has been happening in Israel.

There are portions of this report that we were warned a second and third time NOT to report. We have been reminded again that the professional media, newspapers, magazines, radio and television, will not disclose this story because it involves too many in high places -- and the warning has been "HANDS OFF" -- "DO NOT TOUCH UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES."

If this is true, and I have been convinced that it is so -- it is an additional disgrace to the American Government's already tarnished record. Inasmuch as American intelligence knows of this vast and death-dealing hashish trade in Lebanon, WHY has not the President of the United States been made aware of this baneful, despicable practice -- the making of dangerous, habit-forming drugs so easily obtainable -- especially while thousands of U.S. Marines and Sailors have been stationed in Beirut? Or has this also been part of the overall plot in the destruction of our American youth? It is obvious that our pro-communist CIA and State Department couldn't care less while hundreds of American boys have already paid with their lives.

Ronald Wilson Reagan, President of the United States, why don't YOU tell the people of this once great nation WHY our troops are in Lebanon. I'd like to think that it is as distasteful for you to have ordered the Marines and Naval units into an area so many thousands of miles away from our shores as it is to me. And how do you intend to explain to the parents who have lost their dear sons who were hardly on the threshold of life? Mr. President, you have honored and entertained Menachem Begin of Israel, who knowingly issued orders NOT to interfere in Haddad's illicit, unsavory trade, and Amin Gemayel, President of Lebanon. Both are abhorrent creatures, worse than murderers.

The American people have been betrayed! And you, Mr. President have been unfaithful in your duty. As a citizen of this country, I must respectfully request that you immediately confirm the content of this report -- the truthful answer to which I am positive -- then, without further hesitation, order the Marines out of Lebanon. And inasmuch as I've gone this far in exposing the Lebanon story under penalty of "death" -- and while such newsletters as this, WESTERN FRONT, has the ability to release the truth -- I shall tell the people of America WHY our boys are in Lebanon.

The most powerful organization in the United States is the Israeli Lobby. This Jewish organization, after meetings with those in power in Moscow and Tel Aviv decided that 'war' must be provoked. Russian Soviet aggression is Jewish aggression and the U.S. government in reality is merely a puppet. Does anyone dare to disprove this?

The Reagan Administration received orders to send Marines and Naval units to Lebanon so as to preserve the territory Israel has already occupied in Lebanon plus a plan of further occupation by Israel in the near future, which hopefully would involve the United States -- thus another war. Better heed this as a warning, fellow patriots. Let your voices be heard!!

Mr. President, your allowing William Clark's demotion to the Dept. of Interior concerns millions of Americans. He was not only your National Security Advisor, but a close friend. Robert McFarlane, the Clark replacement is a Kissinger protege, a trained Trilateralist and of further concern is your formal visit to Gen. Chun Doo Hwan, military dictator of South Korea. If you continue your present 'pace' you soon will be without any friends.

As we close 1983 and enter the New Year of 1984, communication throughout the world and the close contact the nations have with one another is equivalent to all nations being of one tongue. Again ambitious and powerful men, whose power today comes from their control of money, are telling the people of the world that world government is inevitable, nations cannot be recognized because all men are of one blood, so nations must submerge their sovereignty into a world government, even though Jehovah Himself divided men into nations (Deut. 32:8). These wicked men say that all religions are of equal value, Jehovah is not the Almighty God but is only one of the gods. They say we must have a world police force, a world court before which individuals and nations who will not submit can be brought for trial, a world parliament, a world bank, a world health organization, a world institution of learning, a world economic system, a world religion, and some of these institutions they have already established. They believe victory is assured to them. What they haven't told you is that the one world government and its police force is to be headed only by jews.

Will they succeed? They cannot, for their time has run out and the stone of Jehovah's Kingdom under Christ is about to strike, destroying their hideous image and sweeping the earth clean. But we must not forget His words; "Occupy until I come".

Dear reader, surely you who read such informative newsletters as this are well aware of the intrigue within our own government -- and the stench by the masters of deceit is increasing so rapidly that it is chilling to think about America's younger generation and what they will inherit.

Last October 14th Ronald Reagan declared a national economic emergency but we are certain you did not learn about it via the controlled media nor did you learn that President Reagan deceived the citizenry of these United States when he adopted this illegal cover up. Your President now has total dictatorial powers. He can close the banks and he can freeze your bank accounts -- even your standard of living. He can close off the export of capital. He can call in (and confiscate) gold and silver and revalue both if he chooses to do so. He can call in and issue new currency, devalue the dollar and even slap on total wage and price controls. You MUST believe the truth -- it is the bankruptcy of the IMF and the New York banks which has brought about the execution of this criminal and fraudulent assumption of power -- and the people should voice their objections LOUDLY before it is too late.

Your sons and daughters face 'death' in No-Win wars. Yes, even your grandchildren!

We haven't time to go into further detail. Surely you recognize the vital urgency of "right-wing" leaders and "conservative groups" to gather together so that we may adopt drastic emergency measures to combat these aliens who are destroying us from within.

THIS, concerned and Patriotic Americans, is our last call to the sincere leaders in this former 'land of the free'. If you are "right" and wish to attend the "Summit Conference" being held in the Los Angeles area, February, 1984, contact WESTERN FRONT immediately. This gathering is by invitation ONLY. There will be no press and the doors will be closed to any seeking admission without an invitation. If you are sincerely interested in the future of America and have proper credentials, we will grant you admission. However, you must be a recognized right-wing publisher or head of a reputable conservative organization. Time is indeed short but inasmuch as this may be the most important meeting of this century, we will separate the pretenders from America's sincere, dedicated and honest leaders.

Please bring your subscription up to date if delinquent. It's our 'life blood' \$15. yearly.

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD OUR WORK WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
(11 Chron. 7:14)

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1981

Amid the Lawlessness in Lebanon, Hashish Trade Flourishes

By JOHN KETNER

Special to The New York Times

BAALBEK, Lebanon, Oct. 3 — The harvest is on in the Bekaa Valley, some of the most fertile land in the Middle East, and workers in the broad fields are bringing in another record crop of Lebanon's biggest cash export — hashish.

Some 80 percent of the cultivated land in the Upper Bekaa and the hills of Hermil just to the north are now planted in hashish. The development is attributed to the breakdown of authority since the outbreak of the civil war six years ago, which created a lawlessness that has complemented the Lebanese sense of anticommercial free enterprise.

"Before the war, only 10 percent of the land was in hashish, and they planted corn around it to hide it," a young businessman here said. "Now, it is everywhere."

Towering Heaps of Hashish

From a little above the highway to Damascus, the wide fields of stubby, spiky olive green cannabis plants with the distinctive five-pointed leaves stretch from the edges of the main roads toward the steep mountains, nearly surrounding a police station between Zahle and Baalbek.

Under the hot sun, Bedouin nomads from Syria, the women in bright peasant dresses and head scarves, chop the hashish with hand sickles, tossing the tops into bundles on the ground. The bundles are gathered into big bales, and carts pulled by tractors and huge trucks rumble along the roads, piled high with towering heaps of hashish.

It is an idyllic scene, an oasis of tranquillity in this strife-torn land. The hashish trade is a rare example of cooperation in Lebanon, where the divisions along political and religious lines have led to so much violence.

Under the eyes of Syrian soldiers, in their guise as the peacekeeping troops of the Arab Deterrent Force, the hashish is grown by Shiite Muslims. It is brought out and distributed abroad, to Europe, the United States, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, primarily through the Christian areas controlled by the private armies of both the Phalangist Party and their bitter enemies, the Franjib clan in the northern mountains. All have reason to be happy with the arrangement.

In Baalbek, once noted mainly for its Roman ruins, which attract few tourists in these unsettled times, residents are proud of their agricultural accomplishments and delight in pointing out the new buildings under construction.

Stone villas are replacing mud-walled huts. There is a glassed-in coffee shop that will compete with rickety old tables set on the ground under trees. Big shiny cars, many of them originally stolen from the streets of Beirut, push through the narrow streets. While most roads in Lebanon are marked by potholes, here there is mile after mile of smooth road, privately paved with hashish money, running toward the village of Yammoune, another hashish center.

There are new factories, financed



Bedouin nomads harvesting hashish in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Hashish is Lebanon's biggest cash export.

with hashish profits, making paper tissues and plastics. There is also a new trout hatchery.

"No Government ever looked after this area, not the Turkish, not the French, not this Government," said an elder of an important family here who asked that his name not be used.

Hashish Brings Improvements

"There were no schools, no factories, nothing for the people to do," he said. "Now, with the hashish, we have hospitals, we can build houses, we have fixed the streets ourselves."

"If a man grows the hashish," his wife added, "he can build a house, marry off his daughter, feed his family. Our sons can go to the university and become doctors and engineers."

"Without the hashish, no one can live," she continued. "They have no choice. If they plant tomatoes or potatoes, what are they going to eat? Nothing."

"There are no more poor," a businessman said, painting a utopian portrait of his city. "Everybody is rich and there are no problems. With the hashish, a man can be a millionaire in a year."

But some fear that there is trouble ahead.

"In the beginning it was good," one elder said. "But the money still comes and it is too easy. The people are losing their conscience and they think everything is money. They buy two or three cars and do not care about religion."

"Even though it is not in the religion, they said it was all right because the hashish was going to our enemies. But it should stop or everything will be bad here; in five years even the children who are in the university will smell and use the hashish."

The breakdown of Government authority has meant that people other than Members of Parliament, who previously figured prominently, can get into the hashish trade. The huge business, from backyard plots to expanses of tribal land, is beginning to spawn side industries, such as the manufacture of mechanical stiers to sort and crush the leaves.

When the trade was small, a businessman explained, it was riskier, but now there is so much money that it is easy to be sure everyone is paid off. For a time, smugglers had a private airport in the valley. Now, dealers and narcotics experts say, most of the hashish goes out through the string of illegal ports that have sprung up along the Christian coastline north of Beirut, which have also siphoned millions of dollars away from the Government docks.

A local narcotics enforcement official estimated that the hashish crop had gone from around 100 tons a year before the civil war to 2,000 tons this year.

The crop is believed to bring about \$300 million into the Bekaa Valley. Growing is the least profitable part of the business, since the profits multiply



The New York Times, Oct. 5, 1981
Baalbek, Hermil and Yammoune are major hashish-growing areas.

with each step of the distribution, so the Shites still get the smallest share.

Hashish flourishes in the Upper Bekaa because of a climate that includes, among other things, just the right amount of morning dew.

"We have no oil like Saudi Arabia," said a young hashish trader who grew up in a mountain village and who has since acquired fashionable aviator sunglasses, a Jaguar and a Mercedes. "Hashish is Lebanon's oil."

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 NEW YORK TIMES
 JUN 14 1983

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

LEBANESE HASHISH IS INVADING ISRAEL

Rise in Arrests of Traffickers
 Has Not Reduced the Flow
 — Surplus Cuts Prices

Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, June 13 — In the year since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the heavy, loosely controlled traffic across the border has allowed so much Lebanese-grown hashish to come south that the police say it is more abundant here now than it has been in years.

The hashish, from the Syrian-controlled region of the Bekaa, Lebanon's eastern valley, has made itself evident in two ways: an increase in arrests of smugglers and dealers and a decrease in the drug's market price.

A police spokesman said the wholesale price of hashish had fallen from about \$1,100 a pound before the war to less than half that now. He said this was a "sure indicator of the significant rise in the supply of hashish to the local black market."

Police operations against drug rings have been successful recently, bringing in tons of hashish and dozens of smugglers. But Yehzekel Carthy, Chief of Special Investigations for the Israeli National Police, said in an interview this week: "We feel like Sisyphus. We catch and catch and catch and catch and put in prison, and they continue to use drugs." He said: "The temptation is so strong and the profit is so great that there is no vacuum there. One goes, another one replaces him immediately."

How Smugglers Operate

Mr. Carthy called the northeastern section of the Bekaa the biggest center of hashish production in the world. He said the hashish moves freely down to the Lebanese-Israeli border with no Lebanese police interference.

Although the Israeli civilian and army police try to check for drugs at border crossings, some smuggling methods are so cunning and others so simple that much hashish goes undetected. Some smugglers simply throw plastic bags filled with hashish over the boundary fence to accomplices on the other side. Farmers carry sacks of hashish under the watermelons or potatoes in their trucks, knowing that the police cannot check every truck.

Last week, a Druze officer in the Israeli Army was arrested along with 34 other people when the police cracked what Mr. Carthy called "the biggest drug ring in Israeli history." The ring hid packages of hashish in empty army water and gas tanks being trucked back to Israel to be refilled.

The police say a "finger" of hashish, a finger-sized slice weighing three or four grams, retails for about \$13 on the Israeli market.

ington Post

Sept. 2-82

JACK ANDERSON

Bekaa Valley Becomes New Golden Triangle

The military focus in the Middle East has shifted from Beirut to the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon, where Syria and Israel are building up their forces. At stake is one of the Middle East's most fertile areas. But the most important crop isn't melons or wheat; it's hashish.

Intelligence sources in Israel, Lebanon and Washington agree that hashish production has increased since 1976, when the Syrians occupied the Bekaa Valley as a United Nations' peace-keeping force. Some sources suggest that hashish is one reason Syria wants to stay there.

A classified "narcotics intelligence estimate," prepared with the help of the CIA and shown to my associate Dale Van Atta, estimates that the valley's annual production of hashish was 230 to 260 tons, almost double what it was before the Syrian occupation. Nearly 75 percent of the crop has been going to Egypt each year, the report notes. "Generally, only one crop is grown per year," the narcotics report explains. "It is . . . harvested from mid-August to mid-September, before the advent of the rainy season."

In other words, the Lebanese farmers are harvesting their crop right now, at least they're trying to. The intelligence experts say this year's hashish crop is not nearly as big as usual, because of the Israeli invasion. But no one can guess the exact size of the crop because, as one report notes, "the flow of narcotics intelligence from Lebanon has been seriously curtailed because of the turmoil there."

Anywhere from 9,000 to 13,000 acres of the Bekaa Valley are devoted to cultivation of cannabis, the plant that produces marijuana and hashish. Because of the valley's lushness, an acre yields a 3,080-pound crop. This can be transformed into more than a ton of marijuana, or 35 to 60 pounds of hashish.

When the Syrians moved in, "some of the [villagers] abandoned by Christian villagers [was] confiscated by Moslem farmers and put into cannabis cultivation," the narcotics estimate reports. It adds that "the livelihood of two-thirds of the valley's population" depended directly on hashish cultivation under the Syrians. Before the Israeli invasion, the Bekaa Valley was controlled "by approximately 20 family organizations," each of which had its own "well-armed, paramilitary force whose arsenals reportedly contain automatic weapons and, in some cases, tanks," the report states.

Lebanese authorities have gener-

ally winked at the lucrative, illicit traffic. It is an irony that the hashish trade has been one of the principal areas of close cooperation between Moslems and Christians.

"Traditionally, Christians have controlled most of the business and financial arrangements of the hashish trade, [including control of] two of the major hashish export cities in the north," says a classified report. "Moslems, on the other hand, have been the hashish cultivators."

Clearly, this unholy alliance is still operational, waiting only for the Syrians and Israelis to settle their differences and let the hashish traffic get back to normal.

Post-Election Purge: After the Nov. 2 elections, President Reagan is expected to authorize a major purge of Cabinet members and White House aides. The ax will probably fall between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when most of Washington has its mind on turkeys, sugarplums and lame ducks.

Administration insiders say those headed for the block include Labor Secretary Raymond J. Donovan, Interior Secretary James G. Watt, Education Secretary Terrel H. Bell and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel R. Pierce Jr. In the White House, Office of Management and Budget Director David A. Stockman, communications assistant David R. Gergen and counsel Fred F. Fielding are reported on the hit list.

2/3/84

✓ War Is Giving a Drug Lift To the Syrian Connection

By JACK ANDERSON

THE Syrians aren't clinging so stubbornly to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley just to protect their flank against Israeli attack. They're also protecting a multibillion-dollar drug traffic involving top-ranking Syrian military and civilian officials.

High-quality hashish and heroin are smuggled out of the valley through Syria to various Western capitals. The smugglers are given safe passage by the Syrian military — in exchange for lucrative pay-offs.

From intelligence sources, my office has obtained a confidential report that details the whole sordid story. Here are the highlights:

— A pivotal role in the dope traffic is played by the feared Syrian secret service, *Al-Istikhbarat As-Souriat*. It was the SS, as it is called, that brought in Turkish experts to grow opium poppies in the valley. The secret service uses the money from drugs to bankroll terrorist attacks and to recruit and control spies — as well as to line its own pockets.

— Like Chicago gangsters in the 1920s, Syrian generals have carved out their own exclusive territories to keep things on a businesslike basis. One dust-up did occur between two rival generals, Mohammed Ghanem and Ghazi Kanaan. Terms of a "peace treaty" gave Kanaan the take from smugglers in the Lebanese city of Shatura, while Ghanem exacts tribute at the Syrian border post of Al-Massna.

— THE northern Lebanon truck routes are controlled by Syrian security chief Rifaat Assad, President Hafez Assad's younger brother. His minions share income from the northern drug roads, with Ali Eid, an Alawite Moslem agent in the port of Tripoli. The drug convoys, under Syrian army protection, travel the bleak, sandy roads from Baalbek, Lebanon, into Syria through the remote village of Sarghaya.

— Syrian military helicopters have been used to ship tons of hashish from the town of Nihaa in the Bekaa Valley to Syria, whence it goes to Europe. Drugs bound for Al-

exandria, Egypt, are shipped from the Syrian-controlled Lebanese port of Anfa aboard the ship *Hassan*, under the watchful eye of Syrian agent Mustafa Al Farass. Last summer, Egyptian officials seized 3,200 kilograms of Bekaa Valley dope.

— THE list of officers enriching themselves from the drug trade is a veritable Who's Who of the Syrian army. The intelligence report lists names.

— Also fingered in the intelligence report were Syria's defense minister, Mustafa Talas, and Army chief Hikmat Al-Shahaby. They were reported to be dealing with Syria's top drug dealers, Ahmad Mustafa Al-Lakkiss and Hussein Abdel Ghani Tleiss.

— One top drug dealer, Jamil Abdel Karim Hamieh, from the Bekaa Valley village of Taraya, receives full Syrian military protection. "When his car passes through a Syrian checkpoint, the Syrian soldiers do not dare stop it or question him," the report states. "Hamieh also has close ties to defense minister Talas."

— Drug arrests involving the Syrian-controlled traffic have been made over the last two years in Egypt, Spain, and Greece. Canadian and French Interpol agents have nabbed drug smugglers in Lebanon in an effort to stem the flow of dope to their countries.

BLUNDER OF THE WEEK — More than a year ago, three F16s fighter planes crashed and the cause has never been nailed down. One reason is that the planes were not equipped with flight-data recorders — the black boxes that are required on commercial airliners and help crash investigators figure out what happened.

The crash prompted the inspectors-general of Air Force, Army, and Navy to recommend development of a standard flight-data recorder to be installed in all military planes. But some of the Pentagon brass are resisting this eminently sensible move, on grounds that it would be too costly.

My sources suggest a different reason: that some military officials would rather not know if a crash was caused by defective equipment. That would embarrass not only the plane's manufacturer, but the Pentagon people who were supposed to make sure it was in A-1 condition.

The case of the missing black boxes will come up at hearings by the House Government Operations Committee.

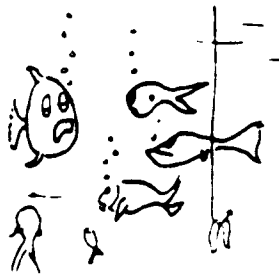
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CONFIDENTIAL FILE — A report from an anti-Khomeini exile group in Paris offers grisly evidence that the ayatollah's murderous tendencies have not abated after five years of butchery. The "People's Mojahedin" learned that 11 of their supporters in Tehran were executed in November. When relatives were allowed to collect the bodies three days later, the report states, "signs of torture were totally evident on all 11 bodies and the victims' blood had been drained before execution."

— The Pershing II missiles are being deployed in Europe on schedule, but the peace movement will have other causes for protest in coming years. A Pentagon report lists 30 new high-tech weapons that will be ready by 1995 — and suggests putting them in Europe. Some of them are nuclear weapons capable of inflicting heavy damage or Eastern Europe early in any conflict.

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Don Wicks



Wicks

"It's been proposed and seconded. No more bait biting until they act on acid rain."

Cuban Radio Misuses Airwaves

By GUILLERMO MARTINEZ
Of The Herald's Editorial Board

NO ONE doubts the dedication of Cuban-Americans in South Florida to the anti-Communist cause or their love for President Reagan.

Their commitment to *la causa* can explain — but not necessarily justify — actions such as the radio marathon that raised \$210,000 this week for President Reagan and congressional candidates who favor a free Cuba. Ac-



Martinez

tions, which even if not illegal, are contrary to the way things are done in the United States.

History explains much. For 25 years, the Cubans who fled communism in their homeland have been frustrated. They were frustrated because many of them had backed Fidel Castro's revolution and then had to abandon their homes, properties, and, in many cases, families to flee to the United States. Hopes of a quick return suffered a severe setback when the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion aborted. The reality that exile might last a long time started during the 1962 missile crisis.

OTHER setbacks followed. Watergate. Cubans supported President Nixon to the bitter end. The prohibition against U.S.-based raids against the Cuban regime embittered many militant exiles. The fall of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua and the subsequent takeover by the Sandinistas was a shattering experience. The Somoza government had provided launching bases during the Bay of Pigs invasion and supported anti-Communist efforts afterward.

Twenty-five years of one defeat after another. Along the way, a generation of older exiles died and a new crop of Americans of Cuban heritage was born and reared in South Florida. Cubans who still consider themselves expatriates live side by side with those who are Americanized and would return to Cuba only to visit. Still the anti-Communist cause, that sacred *causa*, binds the vast majority of them.

President Reagan provides the first high that Cuban-Americans have had in many years. It is a Mount Everest high. The President provides support for *la causa* and Cuban-Americans sense that his re-election campaign is a winnable battle. After so many defeats, the taste of a solid victory in November will be so good . . .

THIS explains the exuberance of the thousands who called three Spanish-language radio stations Monday to donate more than \$210,000 to the Coalition for a Free Cuba political-action committee. This explains the vehemence of the radio announcers and newsmen who implored listeners repeatedly throughout the 19-hour marathon to contribute to make sure "our President" is re-elected and has the support he needs to fulfill his promise on behalf of "our cause."

Immediately came the critics. Some, among the most conservative Cuban-American leaders of the Republican Party, were upset that the fund raisers were using the President's name to collect funds that also would be used to help Democratic congressmen and senators. The Cuban-American Republicans had a reason to complain. The fund raiser put them in a bad light and dried up some of their sources of financial support. The radio marathon also sent a message to Washington that said: "Cuban-American voters are not necessarily Republican. They are one-issue voters who will cast their ballot for candidates of either party who support the Cuban cause."

Others questioned the legality of the issue, though lawyers from three separate corporations and the political-action committee had approved the fund raiser.

Still another group said this was a throwback to politics Latin-style; where radio stations and newsmen respond to political parties or ideologies; where the principle of separating objective news from subjective commentary is blurred.

This last criticism, while flawed, is the most valid. It is flawed because partisan — or ideological — news organizations are not exclusively the vice of Third World or Latin "banana republics." The system of newspapers, radio and television stations, and even news services aligned to a particular political party or government is wide-

spread in much of sophisticated, modern Western Europe.

Nonetheless the criticism is valid because the practice of a news organization dedicating itself to promoting a candidate or political party is not the norm in the United States. When black radio stations — particularly Les Brown's — did something similar in the Miami mayoral election last year, it was also wrong.

This is one of the dangers. Would Miami's Cuban-American community like to see several English-language radio stations launch fund raisers or campaigns for candidates running against Cuban-Americans? What would Cuban-Americans do one, five, or nine years from now when a Democrat not sympathetic to the Cuban cause wins the Presidency and decides to even the score with Spanish-language radio stations? Would they like to see subtle political pressure used to force their local Spanish-language stations to do similar promotion jobs for candidates or causes not in the best interest of a free Cuba?

I do not question the patriotic fervor of colleagues who justify their open advocacy for President Reagan with heart-felt convictions. But I do question if any local or national political candidate, now or in the future, can trust their journalistic objectivity. I do not question the motives of the promoters or of the radio stations' owners. But I do question the wisdom of their actions.

Locally it can exacerbate divisions between Cuban-Americans and the black and white American majority of Dade County. White and black Americans will react and question its legality. In their minds, it is just another reminder of the alienation, of the foreignism, of the Cuban-American community in South Florida. Nationally, it can come back to haunt Cuban-Americans.

The fact that Cuban-Americans believe the cause is right does not justify the means that they used to further *la causa*.

MH
2/3

Sun No Longer Shines on Bekaa's Hashish Crop

Wash.
3/24/83

Partly because of the prosperity and partly because of Shiites fleeing chronic violence in southern Lebanon, Baalbek's pre-civil war population of 30,000 quadrupled. But, as with so much else in Lebanese life, the new prosperity depended on forces beyond the control of this Connecticut-sized country.

This first had news was the assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat in October 1981. His successor, Hosni Mubarak, fired the head of Egyptian customs, who had turned a blind eye to shiploads of Bekaa hashish arriving in Alexandria.

Egypt, despite its poverty, was the Bekaa's best customer—taking between half and three quarters of the crop, especially the more expensive grades.

The traffickers were reduced to dumping old inert tubes filled with hashish in the Mediterranean and hoping the cargo would be picked up by Egyptian accomplices.

Then the Israelis invaded Lebanon last June. The eastern Mediterranean became crowded with foreign navies—not just the American 6th Fleet and French and Italian squadrons, but also the super-efficient Israelis, whose destroyers and gunboats stopped and searched even the smallest vessel entering or leaving Lebanese waters.

The Bekaa's rich European markets evaporated. No longer did Lebanese dare ship hashish from the Christian-held port of Juniyah or from Tripoli, which is under Syrian Army control. In the past month, the Lebanese government has taken over the port of Beirut from the Christian militia.

As a result, most of the 1982 bumper crop of hashish is still unsold and stored in homes and warehouses in the Bekaa, with no big buyers in sight. This spring, hashish acreage is expected to dwindle to near the pre-1975 level.

BAALBEK, Lebanon
The Romans called it Heliopolis—the city of the sun—but these days Baalbek is a gloomy place.

It's not just the presence in this former tourist center of unwanted visitors in the form of hundreds of armed Iranian Revolutionary Guards. Nor is the depression due only to the widespread fear that Baalbek may be the next

Letter From Lebanon

site of Lebanese conflict, since spring increases the likelihood of fighting between the nearby Israeli and Syrian occupation armies. Rather the gloom is caused by bad news on the hashish front, for Baalbek is the town that hash built.

Hashish cultivation, once confined to less than 10 percent of the narrow Bekaa Valley north of the Beirut-to-Damascus highway, was tolerated by the weak central government. It was an unofficial sop to the poor, backward, mainly Shiite Moslem residents who were neglected when it came to schools, hospitals and roads.

That was before April 1975, when civil war came to Lebanon and the state ceased even pretending to exercise sovereignty over the Bekaa. By last year, farmers had largely abandoned cultivating potatoes, onions and other traditional crops, and as much as 85 percent of the northern valley was sown in hashish.

For the first time since antiquity, when the Bekaa was known as the granary of the Roman Empire, Baalbek became prosperous. New American cars crowded the streets. Shops bulged with television sets, video cassette players and cameras.

Much to many local residents' professed chagrin, as many as 50 clandestine laboratories are said to be refining raw cocaine brought in from South America and heroin base imported from Turkey and Iran.

From what can be gathered from close-mouthed Baalbekis, that traffic passes through neighboring Syria. "We prefer hashish," one grower said. "It is not so dangerous. The heroin and cocaine people are very dirty and very dangerous." But the hard drugs are easier to transport and fetch higher prices.

"You don't light a cigarette here without Syrian permission" is a frequently heard local saying.

Living alongside Syrian troops since 1976—and outside Lebanese government control—the people of the Bekaa have adopted a fatalistic attitude toward these troops, who originally came as an Arab peace-keeping force to end the civil war.

Thus, the presence of as many as 1,000 bearded Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Baalbek and nearby villages is seen as yet another aspect of Syrian influence.

Originally, about 200 Iranian volunteers came via Syria to the Bekaa last summer to fight the Israeli invaders. Their numbers have swollen, but they have done little fighting except against the Lebanese Army.

That at least is the local explanation for the alleged death of one Iranian in a firefight March 4 at nearby Brital, pitting pro-Iranian Shiites (breakaway members of the Amal militia) against a Lebanese Army unit.

Six Lebanese soldiers—and two disident militiamen—were also killed in the fray, set off by militia leader Hussein Moussawi's objections to allowing the Army to conduct maneuvers nearby.

Moscow Reports Righting a Case of Injustice

By JOHN F. BURNS

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 23 — Yuri V. Andropov's drive to root out official malfeasance gained a new hero today when the Minister of the Interior offered what amounted to a public apology to a 29-year-old merchant marine mechanic who had been the victim of a five-year vendetta by the police.

The minister, Col. Gen. Vitaly V. Fedorchuk, who is a former head of the state security agency, published a letter on the front page of Literaturnaya Gazeta conceding that the prosecution of the seaman, Nikolai Rozovaikin, had been "absolutely unfounded." Litera-

turnaya Gazeta is a weekly newspaper often used to reveal wrongdoing that the authorities want corrected.

In the latest case, Mr. Rozovaikin, a graduate of a merchant marine school in Odessa, set out 10 years ago to find out how several thousand rubles belonging to students had disappeared. His efforts brought him 20 months in jail, dismissal from the party, and three years of work as a sweeper on the docks.

Friends' pleas finally caught the attention of someone at Central Committee headquarters, and an inquiry began. Today, General Fedorchuk listed half a dozen policemen and lawyers who had been reprimanded or otherwise discipl-

plined, and he described the outcome as a harbinger of what the public could expect from Mr. Andropov's drive "to strengthen socialist legality."

Mr. Rozovaikin was said to have regained his party membership, work as a shipboard mechanic and admission to the seamen's academy. The inquiry into the missing money was said to have been reopened.

Some Russians may regard the case as something of an exception that proves the rule. Literaturnaya Gazeta acknowledged how heavily the odds counted against a person seeking redress, even at a time when Mr. Andropov has asked people to come forward

with complaints about wrongdoing.

Speaking of Mr. Rozovaikin, the paper said: "He generated a wave, and the storm nearly destroyed him."

His troubles began in 1973, when he graduated with honors from the merchant marine school. He led a group of students to the prosecutor's office to demand an investigation into the disappearance of money earned in summer jobs after an inquiry at school had dragged on for months.

When he returned to Odessa after a period at sea, he found that several instructors sympathetic to the original inquiry had been transferred or retired.

Fresh attempts to revive the inquiry led to what the newspaper described as a smear campaign based on the fact that Mr. Rozovaikin had recently been divorced and on his subsequent dis-

missal from the academy. He was also dismissed from a paid job as an organizer at the Young Communist League.

When he traveled to Moscow to seek redress, he was arrested by the police after the Odessa police had asked for his return as a "dangerous criminal."

For 20 months, he was in custody awaiting trial on charges of "parasitism" and "malicious hooliganism." The case was based on an incident in which housing inspectors investigating a complaint against newighbors of the Rozovaikins were said to have been abused by Mr. Rozovaikin and physically attacked by his brother, Viktor.

"Whoever concocted this indictment knew perfectly well that Viktor Rozovaikin had been paralyzed since early childhood, was helplessly incapacitated and physically incapable of attacking

anyone," the newspaper commented.

After a six-day trial, the brothers were finally acquitted.

Nikolai Rozovaikin was working as a night sweeper on the docks when the Party Control Commission in Moscow, a watchdog body, took up the case. It finally acted against the policemen, ordering the reprimands, transfers and demotions that were announced today.

Referring to the Odessa police, General Fedorchuk, the Interior Minister, said, "Their inquiry was conducted in a superficial manner and on a low professional level that produced gross violations of socialist legality."

NYT
3/24/83

Mitterrand warns of struggle to Overcome Economic Problems

French Leader Seeks Support for 'Plan of Rigor Adapted to the Times'

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Foreign Service

PARIS, March 23—A day after trimming his Socialist government to an inner core of 25 ministers, President Francois Mitterrand tonight warned French citizens of a tough struggle as they seek to overcome France's growing economic problems.

Speaking in a rare nationwide television broadcast, Mitterrand emerged from a lengthy period of self-imposed silence to defend the economic policies of his 22-month-old administration of Socialists and Communists. He appealed to citizens to help the new government win an economic battle on three fronts—inflation, unemployment and foreign trade—by saving more and buying French goods rather than foreign products.

The 14-minute broadcast from the Elysee Palace evidently was designed to reassert Mitterrand's leadership following a setback in municipal elections earlier this month and a string of economic failures, culminating in the devaluation of the franc earlier this week. The president seemed eager to dispel the sense of political vacuum that was created here during the past two weeks while he was pondering the government shake-up and France's future economic course.

"It is high time to stop this infernal machine [inflation] That is why I shall struggle, and the government with me, against this evil, and I shall mobilize the country to this end," Mitterrand said.

Details of a new austerity package to accompany the franc devaluation are to be revealed Friday at a meeting of the new government headed by Prime Minister Pierre

Mauroy, who led the last government and was reappointed by Mitterrand yesterday. The package is expected to include measures to cut imports and reduce French families' purchasing power.

The tone of Mitterrand's speech tonight, together with the composition of the new government, reflected the difficult political and economic compromises he is making. As

the first Socialist leader of France in more than two decades, he is torn between political pressures from his left-wing electorate to protect working-class living standards and the demands of bankers and industrialists for more rigorous economic policies.

Political commentators here said that, while Mitterrand is aware of the scale of France's

economic problems, he also is convinced that nothing can be achieved without support of the trade unions and left-wing activists.

Mitterrand tonight insisted that greater social progress had been achieved under his administration than in the previous half century. But he also acknowledged that progress in reducing inflation, which is running at about 9 percent, had been unsatisfactory.

"Yes, this policy is right . . . in spite of the difficulties we have made way on this arduous road and carried out more reforms in a few months . . . than France has known for half a century," he said.

As if to underline the urgency of the new government's task, figures were issued today showing that France ran up a trade deficit of

more than \$1 billion in February. Although this was an improvement over January, it was still far short of the government's objective of reducing the deficit to \$6 billion this year and eliminating it by the end of 1984.

Mitterrand said that France had no intention of isolating itself from the rest of Europe or forgetting its obligations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This passage appeared to be designed to dispel fears among other Europeans, particularly West Germany, that France might be tempted to follow more protectionist policies as a way out of its economic difficulties.

Describing the government's economic program as "a plan of rigor adapted to the times," Mitterrand said it would include measures to reduce the trade imbalance, cut inflation, keep the social security system in balance, develop savings and maintain a hold on government spending.

Wash. P.

3/24/83

Brital for years has been a wild west town, invitingly close to the ungarded Syrian border and long the market for cars stolen in Lebanon and sold in Syria.

Moussawi took exception to the Army on grounds that it was being trained by U.S. marines instead of fighting the Israelis as he felt it should.

Last Nov. 22, Moussawi had celebrated Lebanon's national day by storming the government office in Baalbek, tearing down President Amin Gemayel's official portrait and unsuccessfully attacking the Army barracks there.

His Iranian allies for the most part have been less turbulent—except for the Brital affair—although not as lamb-like as the Iranian ambassador claimed when he inaccurately insisted recently they had been invited by former president Elias Sarkis and were unarmed.

Last month someone blew up the statue of the late Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian and pan-Arab Sunni Moslem leader, and daubed its desecrated pedestal with Islamic slogans.

Ensnconced in two mosques—one proclaimed "Martyrdom Headquarters"—

and a rented building on Baalbek's main street, the Iranians have treated Baalbekis to a profusion of poster and mural art extolling Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and condemning his enemies.

"Death to the Americans, death to Israel, death to the Russians," proclaims a large wall inscription next to a powerful fist on a mural. Khomeini's name now graces a central square where the Lebanese police headquarters is located.

Outside their own headquarters, a revolutionary guard with a submachine gun looks out from a sand-bagged position toward the street gate, which is decorated with upended canisters of American-made cluster bombs dropped by the Israeli Air Force.

A revolutionary guard "pirate" radio station daily broadcasts eight hours of revolutionary songs, Islamic propaganda and enthusiastic interviews in Arabic. But few Baalbekis appear to listen.

"We don't like them, a teacher." "We know about the executions and think they're as crazy as Qaddafi," the colonel who rules Libya. "They are just another occupation army," the teacher sighed. The larger occupation forces—the Syrians and Israelis—were reported to be reinforcing their positions 25 miles further south.

"War is inevitable," said an employe at the Palmyra Hotel, opposite the Roman ruins. It once catered to the rich and powerful of the world but now is all but deserted. Leafing through the book of distinguished visitors, from Kaiser Wilhelm to Charles de Gaulle, he said forlornly, "Sooner or later an Israeli general will sign his name."

—Jonathan Randal

NATO Officials End Meeting

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

VILAMOURA, Portugal, March 23—A meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense ministers that saw pressure build for an interim proposal on nuclear missiles in Europe wound up here today.

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns indicated, however, that it would be some time before such a proposal is forthcoming.

Luns, who on the eve of this conference had called Reagan's pending zero option proposal "not attainable," today said it would be two months before the president could submit a different one to the Soviets, if he chooses to do so.

The zero option calls for the Soviets to retire their entire force of SS20 and other medium-range missiles in exchange for the United

States' forgoing the planned deployment of 108 Pershing II and 464 cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Luns said today that "the reason I expressed some doubts" about the viability of the zero option "was the completely negative attitude of the Soviet Union." He added that "there might be an interim solution which would finally, we hope, lead later to the zero option."

If there is an interim proposal, said Luns, "it can obviously only be made" after the new round of U.S.-Soviet missile negotiations reconvenes in Geneva. The current session is scheduled to recess next Tuesday and reconvene 60 days later.

Weinberger is expected to put up a fight against any sudden switch from the zero option when he returns to Washington Friday. After the talks here, Weinberger flew to Madrid for talks with Spanish officials.

Wash. P.

3/24/83

Cuban Radio Misses Airwaves

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By GUILLERMO MARTINEZ
Of The Herald's Editorial Board

NO ONE doubts the dedication of Cuban-Americans in South Florida to the anti-Communist cause or their love for President Reagan. Their commitment to *la causa* can explain — but not necessarily justify — actions such as the radio marathon that raised \$210,000 this week for President Reagan and congressional candidates who favor a free Cuba. Actions, which even if not illegal, are contrary to the way things are done in the United States.



Martinez

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This last criticism, while flawed, is the most valid. It is flawed because partisan — or ideological — news organizations are not exclusively the vice of Third World or Latin "banana republics." The system of newspapers, radio and television stations, and even news services aligned to a particular political party or government is wide-

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Nonetheless the criticism is valid because the practice of a news organization dedicating itself to promoting a candidate or political party is not the norm in the United States. When black radio stations — particularly Les Brown's — did something similar in the Miami mayoral election last year, it was also wrong.

This is one of the dangers. Would Miami's Cuban-American community like to see several English-language radio stations launch fund raisers or campaigns for candidates running against Cuban-Americans? What would Cuban-Americans do one, five, or nine years from now when a Democrat not sympathetic to the Cuban cause wins the Presidency and decides to even the score with Spanish-language radio stations? Would they like to see subtle political pressure used to force their local Spanish-language stations to do similar promotion jobs for candidates or causes not in the best inter-

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The fact that Cuban-Americans believe the cause is right does not justify the means that they used to further *la causa*.

War Is Giving a Drug Lift To the Syrian Connection

By JACK ANDERSON

THE Syrians aren't clinging so stubbornly to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley just to protect their flank against Israeli attack. They're also protecting a multibillion-dollar drug traffic involving top-ranking Syrian military and civilian officials.

High-quality hashish and heroin are smuggled out of the valley through Syria to various Western capitals. The smugglers are given safe passage by the Syrian military — in exchange for lucrative pay-offs.

alexandria, Egypt, are shipped from the Syrian-controlled Lebanese port of Anfa aboard the ship *Hassan*, under the watchful eye of Syrian agent Mustafa Al Farass. Last summer, Egyptian officials seized 3,200 kilograms of Bekaa Valley dope.

— THE list of officers enriching themselves from the drug trade is a veritable Who's Who of the Syrian army. The intelligence report lists names.

— Also fingered in the intelligence report were Syria's defense minister, Mustafa Talas, and Army chief Hikmat Al-Shahaby. They were reported to be dealing with

BLUNDER OF THE WEEK — More than a year ago, three F16s fighter planes crashed and the cause has never been nailed down. One reason is that the planes were not equipped with flight-data recorders — the black boxes that are required on commercial airliners and help crash investigators figure out what happened.

The crash prompted the inspectors-general of Air Force, Army, and Navy to recommend development of a standard flight-data recorder to be installed in all military planes. But some of the Pentagon brass are resisting this eminently sensible move, on grounds that it

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duplicate

against the Cuban regime. The fall of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua and the subsequent takeover by the Sandinistas was a shattering experience. The Somoza government had provided launching bases during the Bay of Pigs invasion and supported anti-Communist efforts afterward.

Twenty-five years of one defeat after another. Along the way, a generation of older exiles died and a new crop of Americans of Cuban heritage was born and reared in South Florida. Cubans who still consider themselves expatriates live side by side with those who are Americanized and would return to Cuba only to visit. Still the anti-Communist cause, that sacred *causa*, binds the vast majority of them.

President Reagan provides the first high that Cuban-Americans have had in many years. It is a Mount Everest high. The President provides support for *la causa* and Cuban-Americans sense that his reelection campaign is a winnable battle. After so many defeats, the taste of a solid victory in November will be so good.

THIS explains the exuberance of the thousands who called three Spanish-language radio stations Monday to donate more than \$210,000 to the Coalition for a Free Cuba political-action committee. This explains the vehemence of the radio announcers and newsmen who implored listeners repeatedly throughout the 19-hour marathon to contribute to make sure "our President" is re-elected and has the support he needs to fulfill his promise on behalf of "our cause."

Immediately came the critics. Some, among the most conservative Cuban-American leaders of the Republican Party, were upset that the fund raisers were using the President's name to collect funds that also would be used to help Democratic congressmen and senators. The Cuban-American Republicans had a reason to complain. The fund raiser put them in a bad light and dried up some of their sources of financial support. The radio mara-

THE Syrians aren't clinging so stubbornly to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley just to protect their flank against Israeli attack. They're also protecting a multibillion-dollar drug traffic involving top-ranking Syrian military and civilian officials.

High-quality hashish and heroin are smuggled out of the valley through Syria to various Western capitals. The smugglers are given safe passage by the Syrian military — in exchange for lucrative payoffs.

From intelligence sources, my office has obtained a confidential report that details the whole sordid story. Here are the highlights:

— A pivotal role in the dope traffic is played by the feared Syrian secret service, *Al-Isikhbarat As-Suriat*. It was the SS, as it is called, that brought in Turkish experts to grow opium poppies in the valley. The secret service uses the money from drugs to bankroll terrorist attacks and to recruit and control spies — as well as to line its own pockets.

— Like Chicago gangsters in the 1920s, Syrian generals have carved out their own exclusive territories to keep things on a businesslike basis. One dust-up did occur between two rival generals, Mohamed Ghanem and Ghazi Kenaan. Terms of a "peace treaty" gave Kenaan the take from smugglers in the Lebanese city of Shatura, while Ghanem exacts tribute at the Syrian border post of Al-Massna.

— THE northern Lebanon truck routes are controlled by Syrian security chief Rifaat Assad, President Hafez Assad's younger brother. His minions share income from the northern drug roads with Ali Eid, an Alawite Moslem agent in the port of Tripoli. The drug convoys, under Syrian army protection, travel the bleak, sandy roads from Baalbek, Lebanon, into Syria through the remote village of Sarghaya.

— Syrian military helicopters have been used to ship tons of hashish from the town of Nihaa in the Bekaa Valley to Syria, whence it goes to Europe. Drugs bound for Al-

under the watchful eye of Syrian agent Mustafa Al Farass. Last summer, Egyptian officials seized 3,200 kilograms of Bekaa Valley dope.

— THE list of officers enriching themselves from the drug trade is a veritable Who's Who of the Syrian army. The intelligence report lists names.

— Also fingered in the intelligence report were Syria's defense minister, Mustafa Talas, and Army chief Hikmat Al-Shahaby. They were reported to be dealing with Syria's top drug dealers, Ahmad Mustafa Al-Lakkis and Hussein Abdel Ghani Tleiss.

— One top drug dealer, Jamil Abdel Karim Hamieh, from the Bekaa Valley village of Taraya, receives full Syrian military protection. "When his car passes through a Syrian checkpoint, the Syrian soldiers do not dare stop it or question him," the report states. "Hamieh also has close ties to defense minister Talas."

— Drug arrests involving the Syrian-controlled traffic have been made over the last two years in Egypt, Spain, and Greece. Canadian and French Interpol agents have nabbed drug smugglers in Lebanon in an effort to stem the flow of dope to their countries.

Ben Wicks



"It's been proposed and seconded. No more bait biting until they act on acid rain."

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My sources suggest a different reason: that some military officials would rather not know if a crash was caused by defective equipment. That would embarrass not only the plane's manufacturer, but the Pentagon people who were supposed to make sure it was in A-1 condition.

The case of the missing black boxes will come up at hearings by the House Government Operations Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL FILE → A report from an anti-Khomeini exile group in Paris offers a grisly evidence that the ayatollah's murderous tendencies have not abated after five years of butchery. The "People's Mojahedin" learned that 11 of their supporters in Tehran were executed in November. When relatives were allowed to collect the bodies three days later, the report states, "signs of torture were totally evident on all 11 bodies and the victims' blood had been drained before execution."

— The Pershing II missiles are being deployed in Europe on schedule, but the peace movement will have other causes for protest in coming years. A Pentagon report lists 30 new high-tech weapons that will be ready by 1995 — and suggests putting them in Europe. Some of them are nuclear weapons capable of inflicting heavy damage on Eastern Europe early in any conflict.

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